CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(*i*) *re* : Hardships caused to medical assistants appointed on Stipendary basis

Sri M. M. SAJJAN (Muddebihal).—I call the attention of the Minister for Health to the hardship caused to the Medical Assistants appointed recently on stipendary basis due to the non-receipt of their stipend from the date of their joining duty.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Health).—Sir, I make the following statement :—

1. In order to provide relief to unemployed Medical graduates in this State, the number exceeding 1,000, the State Government formulated last year a scheme to appoint Medical Assistants in rural areas where there is need for their services- Under this scheme which has also been approved by the Government of India, 300 Medical graduates, 30 Dental graduates and 20 Ayurvedic Graduates are to be appointed on a monthly stipend of Rs. 300 (for medical and dental graduates and Rs. 250/-for Ayurvedic Graduates). Appointments to these posts were made from November, 1972 onwards. Some candidates so appointed have taken charge from the middle of December, onwards,

2. Under the scheme, the stipend due to these doctors should be drawn and disbursed by the Medical Officer of the Primary Health Centre concerned every month after receiving a certificate of attendance from Medical Assistant to the effect that he actually stayed in the village where the sub-centre is located.

3. On receipt of reports from certain District Health and Family planning Officers and certain Medical, Officers of Primary Health Centres that the stipends due to Medical Assistants could not be drawn for want of authorisation from the Accountant General, the Director of Health and family planning Services'requested the Accounttant General to send the necessary authorisation, to all the concerned Treasuries in the State The Accountant General, has since replied on 14-3-1973 clarifying that no such authoisation is necessary and the said clarification has been circulated by the Directorate to all officers concerned the same day with instructions to draw and disburse the stipends to Medical Assistants.

4. It will thus be clear that the reason for the delay in payment of the stipend to the "Medical Assistants" was due to the misconception of the Treasury Officers st Taluk level that the authorisation from the Accountant General in Mysore, Bangalore, is a must for honouring the bills as in the case of Gazetted Officers. As a result the bills presented in respect of stipend to Medical Officers of Health of Primary Centres were not honoured by the Treasury Officers.

5. I assure the Hon 'ble Member Shri M.M. Sajjan, and this House that there will be no further delay in this matter and that the stipends due will be regularly dissursed every month hereafter.

Sri M. M. SAJJAN.—Was it not possible to get such a clarification immediately during December 1972 alone so that such hardship would not been caused to the Medical Assistants ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Our office does not work on a war footing. All these delays, though avoidable, have taken place.

Sri M. M. SAJJAN.—It was stated that due to the mis-conception of the Treasury Officers that hardship has been caused. What action has been proposed to take against such officers ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—It is not their fault actually. It is a different scheme altogether. They were under the impression that such an authorisation was necessary. Perhaps there is some delay in writing to the Accountant General, which will have to be looked into. After all a delay of one or two months is not such a serious matter. I should also say that all their back pay also will be paid in lumpsum.

(*ii*) *re* : **Abrupt Closure of the Plate-Sleeper Foundry**

Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANWAR (Bhadravati).—I call the attention of the Minister for Industries to the situation that has arisen due to abrupt closure of the plate sleeper foundry of MISL.

Sri S. M. KRISHNA (Minister for Industries).—I am still trying to get some more information from Bhadravati. Therefore, I request that this may be taken up tomorrow.

MADAM SPEAKER.—It will be taken up tomorrow.

(*iii*) *re* : **Loss caused due to fire accidents at Tenginagere in Yallapure Taluk.**

Sri V. M. GHADI (Haliyal).—I call the attention of the Minister for Agriculture and Forests to the loss caused due to fire accidents at Tenginagere near Kirwalli village, Yellapur Taluk.

Sri K. H. PATIL (Minister for Agriculture and Forests).—

In an area to be taken up for raising a forest plantation, after the extraction of timber and firewood, the rest of the material is given a burn to render the site suitable and conducive for planting. In one such regeneration area, near Kirwatti, in Yellapur Taluk burning was done by the Coupe Contractor on 31-3 1973. A 40'' wide strip alround the regeneration area was formed as provided in the agreement to